

The RCC Weekly

ISSUE 34
NOVEMBER 2, 2012

Call for proposals

You are invited to consider submitting a proposal for the 2013 **Teaching, Learning Student Development Conference**, which will be held on Friday, April 5th at



Middlesex Community College, Lowell. This year's theme is: **Community Colleges: Preparing Socially Responsible Learners and Leaders.**

If you have an innovative curricular or co-curricular practice, program or initiatives that you would like to share with other community college colleagues from across Massachusetts, please consider the following tracks:

Track 1: Social Responsibility

This track will present curriculum, programs and activities aimed at engaging students in their local and global communities and a focus on social change. Sample topics include service learning projects and programs; internship, externship, and experiential learning opportunities within the curriculum; international programs, social and restorative justice work in and out of the classroom, efforts to engage students in active citizenship, conduct protocol as it relates to education, community standards, and civility, and co-curricular activities designed to increase students' levels of social awareness and participation.

Track 2: Democratic and Inclusive Pedagogies

This track will showcase pedagogies and programs seeking to make higher education more inclusive and engaging for all students. Sample topics may be inclusive teaching strategies aimed at specific populations, such as Universal Design, best practices for including student voice in administration and policy decisions, curricular and engagement

(Continued on page 2)



Faculty staff and partners of RCC recently presented at the 43rd **Association of Community College**

Trustees – ACCT Leadership Congress on Friday October 12th, 2012 at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston, MA.

The Association consists of trustees, board members and other leaders of community colleges who work together to continue the momentum of leveraging student success through partnerships, innovation, and evidence.

RCC contributed to this effort by presenting a session on collaborations with local high schools, colleges and other educational entities. The session, entitled “Building Bridges to College Success,” presented information on several of RCC’s strategic alliances with the Boston Public Schools, College Board and area colleges. Our professional development workshops include textual evidence, vertical team subject alignment and targeted college readiness programs that are designed to improve student recruitment, retention and graduation rates. The presenters were: Sterling Giles – Professor of ESOL and Student Success, Colleen Spence – Director of Testing, Jennie Thrash – CTE Coordinator, and John Zinkowski – School to Career Coordinator, Dorchester Academy (BPS). Sterling Giles presented on “Getting Granular with Teachers to Address Readiness Issues.” The presentation highlighted work completed at two workshops that

(Continued on page 3)



Pictured (l to r): Jennie Thrash, Colleen Spence, John Zinkowski (BPS), Sterling Giles

Honors social

The Honors Social was held on Tuesday, October 30th. It was a very special event, largely due to Mark Lawrence's rich discussion of the art that both engaged and entertained the audience! Both students and faculty commented that "we should be doing this more often" and, hopefully, we can respond by creating student-led tours of the art on campus.

Your feedback on the event would be appreciated so that we can build upon what we've done at future Honors activities. Please direct any comments to Rhonda Gray at rgray@rcc.mass.edu.



(Continued from page 1)

activities recognizing the importance of multiple world views, and student learning outcomes that focus on participation in a public democracy, in both curricular and co-curricular contexts.

Track 3: Developing Leaders

Sessions offered in this track will highlight effective programs and activities that place students in leadership roles on campus and within the community. Sample topics include leadership development



theory and practice, peer mentoring and supplemental instruction programs, conduits for student leadership, such as particular experiences or curriculum, as well as programs that promote student leaders within specific academic programs

If you are interested in advancing our community college work in any of the three tracks and want to share your expertise with colleagues please visit the [TLSD 2013 conference website](#) to submit your proposal today! The deadline is December 13, 2012.

Title III Colloquium

How to best shape and bend to bridge the gap between the ideal and the real RCC student?

Presenter: Professor Quentin James

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1:30-2:30PM

Location: 3- 207Q



"Who are RCC students? How do their experiences, learning platforms, and life objectives differ from the archetypal student? How much and in what way, should we alter the way in which we teach, tutor, and interact with them?" Please join Prof. James for this vital discussion.

Quentin James teaches in the English Department at Roxbury Community College. He also serves as the evening Writing Center Associate.

From the Archives

The RCC Archives has many photographs of unidentified individuals, including this photograph from a RCC Commencement that took place sometime in the 1990's. Can anyone identify the individuals in this photo? If so, please contact Autumn Haag, the Librarian Archivist at ahaag@rcc.mass.edu or ext. 5112.



Commencement 1990s, Photo 16, c. 1990s, RCC Archives, A13 Audio-Visual Material, Box 18, Roxbury Community College

Mark Your Calendar

November 6: T3 Colloquium
(3- 207Q)

November 6: Election Day

November 11: Veteran's Day

November 29: Faculty Meeting with VP Mercomes

(Continued from page 1)



focused on the role of textual evidence in student reading and writing. It brought together community college faculty and high school teachers, with the purpose of helping community college faculty respond to young graduates by better understanding their prior educational experiences, and to help high school faculty better prepare students for college.

Colleen Spence, Jennie Thrash and John Zinkowski presented "Getting the Right Fit – Improving College Readiness." The goals of this professional development workshop were to exchange best practices, identify

common pedagogical topics, compare assessments (i.e. Accuplacer) used in high school and community colleges and develop a closer working alliance between secondary and post-secondary educators.

Approximately forty people attended this early morning session. The RCC team was commended for nurturing dialogues across institutions. The team was also reminded that, while we often think we are doing little, in comparison with larger institutions, in truth, we are doing much more in substantive collaboration than most people in higher education.

Visit the ACCT website at www.acct.org

Items for "The Weekly"

If you have something of interest that you would like to share with the college community, please submit it (by Wednesday afternoon) to Jacqueline Lynch at jlynch1@rcc.mass.edu